CHAPTER
2
Hinowa ga CRUSH!
Story: TAKAHIRO Art: strelka

HIYA-AAAH!!
CHAPTER 2 - IN YAENAMI VILLAGE
Hinowa CRUSH!
GA (THWACK)
GA
YAH!
HAH!
STORY SO FAR WAKOKU IS AN ISLAND NATION TO THE EAST UNDER THE WEIGHT OF CIVIL WAR HINOWA A WOMAN WHO FISHES FOR A LIVING ENTERS THE BATTLE LOOKING TO MAKE A NAME FOR HERSELF BUT INSTEAD LOSES HER LIFE IN BATTLE HER DAUGHTER HINATA TAKES HER MOTHER S NAME AND PLEDGES TO PUT AN END TO THESE WARRING TIMES THEN A GIRL WITH BLACK HAIR WASHES UP ON THE SHORE

HAH!!
WHOA !!
SUDDEN DEATH!
!

BASH
(SMACK)
SUPAAH
(SMAAACK)
NUM-
BER
TWENTY-
THREE!
ULTRA
TOBARI
CUT!
KWAH...

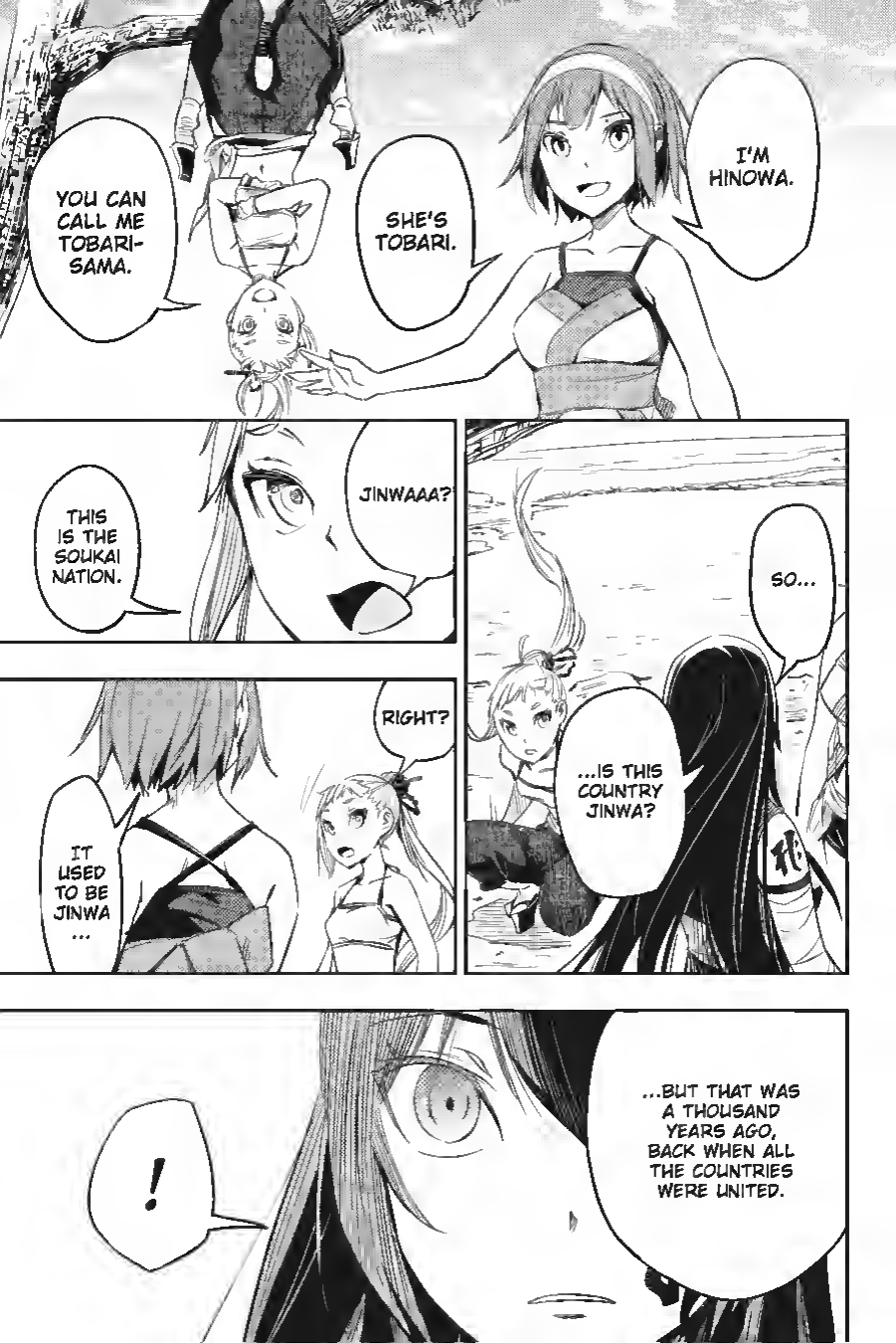
HEH HEH! I WIIIIN!
KUH!
I DID IT! TOBARI-SAMA WINS YET AGAIN!
I LOST ...
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'D THROW YOUR SWORD.
C'MON, HINOWA. YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE TO ME IN MARTIAL ARTS TOO!
...ONE MORE ROUND, TOBARI.

I'LL TAKE YOU AS MANY TIMES AS YOU WANT.
FIGHTING YOU MAKES MY HEART POUND!
YOU'RE BEING POMPOUS ...
!!

...TOOK CARE OF MY WOUNDS.
...YOU GUYS...
YOU SHOULDN'T PUSH YOURSELF OR WALK AROUND YET.
OOH! WELCOME BACK TO THE LAND OF THE LIVING!

WE GATHERED A BUNCH OF HERBS FOR YOU, SO I HOPE YOU'RE THANKFUL.
THE VILLAGE ELDER SAID YOU'D HEAL ON YOUR OWN.
YEAH. WE GOT THE IMPRESSION SOMETHING HAPPENED, SO WE DIDN'T CALL FOR A DOCTOR.

I'M AKAME.
THANK YOU SO MUCH. YOU HAVE MY GRATITUDE.


I'M HINOWA.
SHE'S TOBARI.
YOU CAN CALL ME TOBARI-SAMA.
JINWAAA?
THIS IS THE SOUKAI NATION.
SO...
...IS THIS COUNTRY JINWA?
RIGHT?
IT USED TO BE JINWA ...
...BUT THAT WAS A THOUSAND YEARS AGO, BACK WHEN ALL THE COUNTRIES WERE UNITED.
!

I MADE IT...TO MY DESTINATION.
THEN HOWASHU WAS AFTER THE COUNTRY SPLIT.
THE ELDER TAUGHT US. AFTER IT WAS JINWA, IT WAS TOWA.
IS THAT RIGHT?
I'D LIKE... TO TAKE A LITTLE WALK AROUND.
DON'T FORGET YOU'VE BEEN STUCK IN BED FOR A FEW DAYS.
I'LL BE OKAY. YOU TOOK EXCELLENT CARE OF ME.
THEN JUST LET ME KNOW IF IT GETS TO BE TOO MUCH.
I'LL CARRY YOU.

...THANK YOU.
WHAT A PEACE-FUL...
...BEAU-TIFUL PLACE.

BUT WE'RE PROUD OF MORE THAN JUST THE OCEAN AND OUR HOT SPRINGS.
ZUKI (TWINGE)
THIS VIEW IS THE VILLAGE'S PRIDE AND JOY.

IT'S SURPRISING HOW MUCH HINOWA'S LOOKING AFTER YOU.
GO AHEAD AND INDULGE HER.
SINCE WE RESCUED HER, IT'S OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO TAKE CARE OF HER.
SHITA (SHOVE)

ARE YOU OKAY, AKAME?
I'M FINE.

JIII (STARE)

AKAME!
I'M SUPER CURIOUS ABOUT WHERE YOU CAME FROM.
WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE YOU TO OUR CLASS SO YOU CAN TELL EVERYONE ABOUT IT.
...CLASS?
THERE'S FIVE OF US LEARNING MARTIAL ARTS, ACADEMICS, AND ALL SORTS OF THINGS FROM THE ELDER.
WE'RE GOING TO MAKE NAMES FOR OURSELVES IN THIS WAR-TORN AGE.
!
SO THIS COUNTRY IS GOING THROUGH HARD TIMES.

THERE'S PLENTY MORE. THE SEA IS RICH WITH THINGS TO EAT.
YOU SURE HAVE A HEALTHY APPETITE, AKAME.
TH...
...THIS IS DELI-CIOUS!
...BUT I'M SUR-PRISED.
THANK YOU.

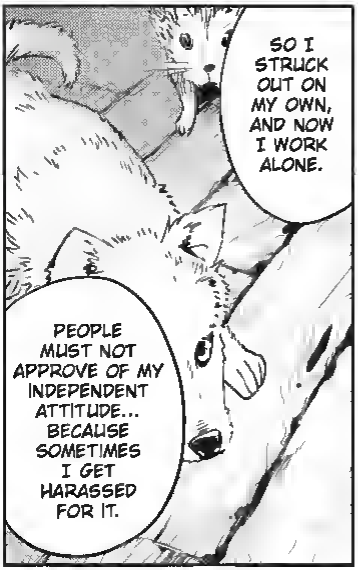
HISS!
HISS!
THIS PLACE SURE IS BUSTLING.
WOOF!
WOOF!
AH HA HA!
I TOOK THEM IN, SO I HAVE TO MAKE SURE THEY'RE HAPPY.
JUST LIKE WITH ME.
YEP.
IT'S MY DUTY TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE HAPPY TOO, AKAME.

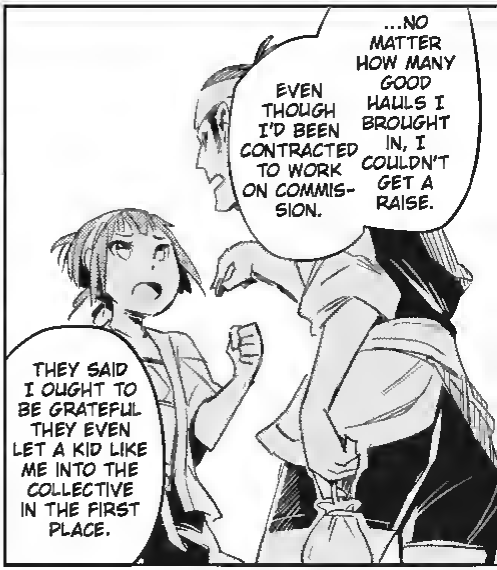
JUDGING BY YOUR CLOTHES, YOU'RE FROM SOMEWHERE FAR AWAY.
IT MUST BE HARD TO BE ALL BY YOURSELF IN AN UNKNOWN LAND, BUT I'M HERE FOR YOU.
YOU JUST MADE A FACE LIKE YOU'RE WONDERING IF YOU CAN REALLY BE HAPPY!
... HAPPY, HUH...
OH!

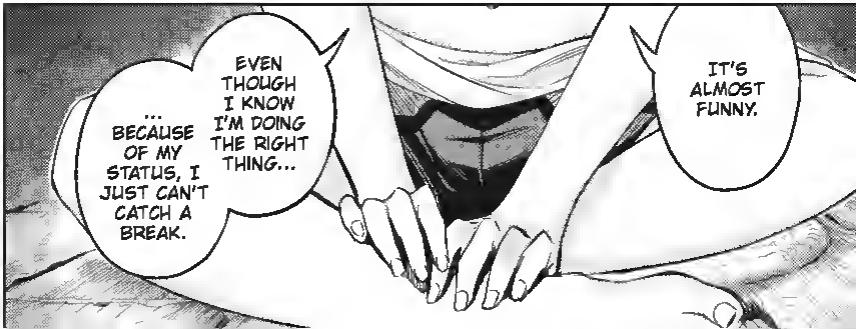
WHEN I FIRST SAVED THIS LITTLE GUY, HE LOOKED LIKE THAT TOO. HE'D BEEN BULLIED.
BUT LOOK HOW PLEASED HE IS NOW!
WOOF!

WHY DO YOU DO SO MUCH FOR OTHERS, HINOWA ...?
I COULDN'T JUST ABANDON THEM, NOW COULD I!?
SO IT'S HER NATURE.
... WHAT ABOUT THE REST OF YOUR FAMILY?
MY DAD... WAS STRUCK BY DISEASE AND DIED BEFORE WE COULD GET HIM TO A GOOD DOCTOR
IN THE HOPES OF NEVER LETTING THAT HAPPEN AGAIN, MY MOTHER WORKED HARD FISHING TO EARN MONEY...
...AND THEN VOLUNTEERED AS A SOLDIER DURING THE OFF-SEASON. SHE DIED IN BATTLE.
...IS THAT SO...?

ALL BY YOURSELF?
AT FIRST I WAS IN A FISHING COLLECTIVE, BUT...
AND NOW I GET BY ON MY OWN, THROUGH FISHING.

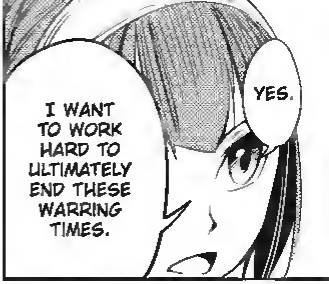

SO I STRUCK OUT ON MY OWN, AND NOW I WORK ALONE.
PEOPLE MUST NOT APPROVE OF MY INDEPENDENT ATTITUDE... BECAUSE SOMETIMES I GET HARASSED FOR IT.


...NO MATTER HOW MANY GOOD HAULS I BROUGHT IN, I COULDN'T GET A RAISE.
EVEN THOUGH I'D BEEN CONTRACTED TO WORK ON COMMISSION.
THEY SAID I OUGHT TO BE GRATEFUL THEY EVEN LET A KID LIKE ME INTO THE COLLECTIVE IN THE FIRST PLACE.

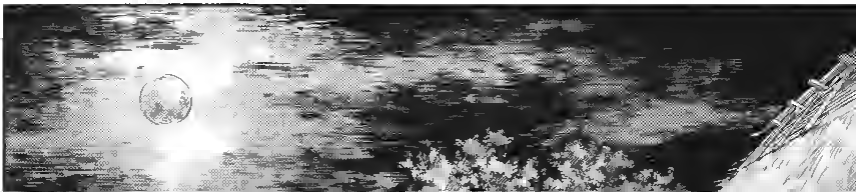

IT'S ALMOST FUNNY.
EVEN THOUGH I KNOW I'M DOING THE RIGHT THING...
... BECAUSE OF MY STATUS, I JUST CAN'T CATCH A BREAK.

IF MY FATHER HAD STATUS AND MONEY THEN, HE WOULDN'T HAVE DIED.
SO I...
...WANT TO BECOME SOME-ONE GREAT.
TO PROTECT THOSE I CHERISH.
AND TO PROTECT ...
...MY OWN PRIDE.
...SO YOU WANT TO GO TO WAR TO DISTINGUISH YOURSELF.

YOU'RE GOING TO END ...
...THE FIGHTING ...?
IF IT WEREN'T FOR ALL THE FIGHTING, MY MOTHER WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO DIE EITHER.


I WANT TO WORK HARD TO ULTIMATELY END THESE WARRING TIMES.
YES.

I MAY BE ABLE TO HELP YOU.
HUH?



YOU'RE GOING TO TEACH ME HOW TO FIGHT WITH A SWORD?
FROM WHAT I SAW OF YOUR MATCH WITH TOBARI, YOUR SWORDSMANSHIP IS QUICK AND SHARP.
IT'S BEAUTIFUL AND STRAIGHT FORWARD...
IT'S EXACTLY BY THE BOOK.
BUT YOU CAN'T BEAT A STRONG OPPONENT WITH THAT ALONE.
DESPITE MY INJURY, YOU'LL STILL LOSE TO ME.
!

BAAAAN (AHHHHH)
SH-SHE'S FAST.
BIRI (STING)
BIRI
AKAME ...
I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU WERE SO STRONG!
ZUZA (SCUFF)
FORTUNATELY, YOU AND I HAVE THE SAME COMBAT STYLE. WE FIGHT WITH ONE SWORD.

GOT IT!!
I'M NOT GOOD ENOUGH TO TEACH YOU WITH WORDS ALONE.
WHEN WE FIGHT, LEARN BY WATCHING WHAT I DO.
THREE DAYS LATER

GA
GA (CLASH)
HAH!
YAH!
GA
GA

TRAINING WITH AKAME MADE ME REALIZE...
...THAT I FIGHT EXACTLY AS I WAS TAUGHT.
IT FEELS LIKE YOU'VE GAINED A LOT OF EXPERIENCE.
YOU'VE GOTTEN TOUGHER, HINOWA!
ZA
ZA (ZSH)
NOT SO STUBBORN IN MY THINKING!
I SHOULD BE MORE FLEXIBLE!
(RINGING)
ヒーン
...!!
(ZSH)

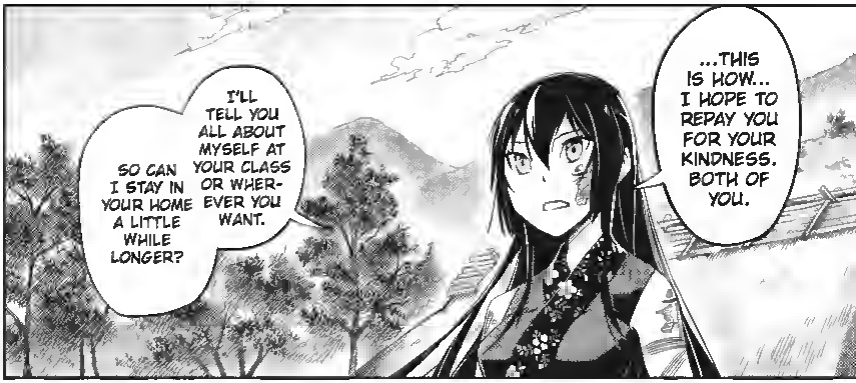
GORO (ROLL)
SUDDEN DEATH!
NUMBER TWENTY-FOUR!
!!
ULTRA TOBARI SLICE!
WHOOSH

HEH!
IT'S HARD TO ATTACK BELOW THE KNEES.
HA (HOP)
THIS ATTACK IS GONNA BE USEFUL!!
GOO (WHOOSH)
WHAT'S THE MAT-TER!?
ALL YOU'RE DOING IS RUNNING AWAY...

!?
TA (TAP)
THE MOMENT SHE STOPS ROLLING AND STANDS BACK UP...
NOW!!
ZA (SSHO)
IT'LL HURT TOO MUCH TO ROLL THERE.
TCH!

SUPAAAN (SHAAACK)
OOF !!
GUHH
バタッ
PATA (SPLAT)

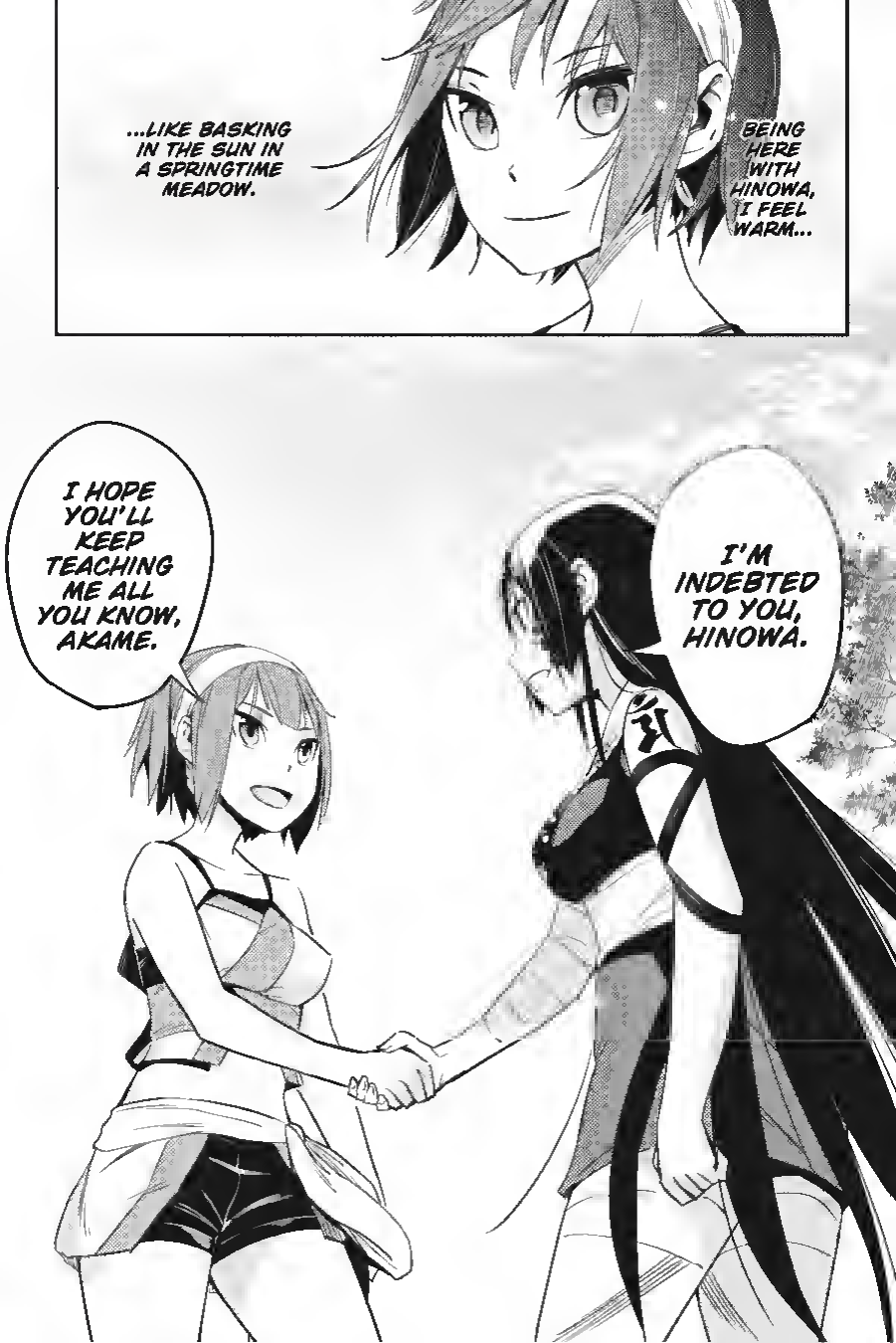
...LITTLE BY LITTLE...
I WON...!!
WELL DONE, HINOWA!
IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOUR TRAINING, AKAME.
BOOF!
BOOF!


...THIS IS HOW... I HOPE TO REPAY YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS. BOTH OF YOU.
I'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT MYSELF AT YOUR CLASS OR WHER-EVER YOU WANT.
SO CAN I STAY IN YOUR HOME A LITTLE WHILE LONGER?

...IN MY NATION, I KILLED MANY PEOPLE ON MISSIONS.
WHY WOULD YOU EVEN FEEL THE NEED TO ASK?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? OF COURSE YOU CAN.
HUH
HUH

I'M NOT BEING HUNTED BY ANYONE, BUT...
...SIMPLY BEING WITH YOU MAY MAKE YOUR LIFE MORE DIFFICULT.
SO THAT'S WHY YOU HAVE SUCH SAD EYES, AKAME.
THAT'S WHAT YOUR HEAD SAYS.
BUT WHAT ABOUT YOUR HEART?
...I STILL WANT TO STAY HERE.

THEN LET'S DO THAT!
WE WELCOME YOU WHOLE-HEART-EDLY!
I'VE ALSO KILLED MY SHARE OF PIRATES.
IF I GO INTO BATTLE, I MIGHT KILL MANY MORE.
I CAN'T CRITICIZE OTHERS FOR THEIR ACTIONS.
...IT'S STRANGE.


...LIKE BASKING IN THE SUN IN A SPRINGTIME MEADOW.
BEING HERE WITH HINOWA, I FEEL WARM...
I HOPE YOU'LL KEEP TEACHING ME ALL YOU KNOW, AKAME.
I'M INDEBTED TO YOU, HINOWA.

MEAN-
WHILE
...
...A COUNTRY PREPARED TO DEPLOY TROOPS TO THE SOUKAI NATION.
WAR...
...WAS ABOUT TO BEGIN.
TO BE CONTINUED IN THE NEXT CHAPTER...!

Hinowa ga CRUSH!
Chapter 2

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This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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First Yen Press eBook Edition: July 2017

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ISBN: 978-0-316-51990-8 (ebook)